



# Awards Guide 2012

Effective January 1, 2012

*Building a healthy Saskatchewan through health research*



## What's new in the 2012 Awards Guide?

- The Establishment Grant program has undergone significant changes based on feedback from the research community. The revised program combines and replaces the New Investigator Establishment Grant and the Establishment Equipment Grant Programs. It provides the following changes: (1) a three-year term (compared to the former two-year term); (2) a slightly increased amount of funding – \$120,000 total, compared to the \$110,000 previously available from the two combined programs; and (3) more year-to-year flexibility in spending the total grant amount. Major, essential equipment can still be requested as part of establishment grant budgets.
- The amount of SHRF's two-year Top-up Incentive Award for applicants successful in obtaining both a SHRF Postdoctoral Research Fellowship and a Tri-Agency Research Fellowship has been increased from \$5,000/year to \$10,000/year in salary for the award holder. Please see the Postdoctoral Research Fellowship Program description for details.
- SHRF's Health Research Group Grant program (all three phases) return in 2012 (October 1st deadline), after a one-year hiatus due to SHRF's budget cut.
- In 2011, the Government of Saskatchewan committed \$1 million dollars for spinal cord injury (SCI) research in the province over the next 5 years. The first SCI Research Grant competition took place in 2011 and we expect the next one in 2013. Program details are found in this Guide.
- SHRF is partnering with CIHR to support the Team Grant funding opportunity for CIHR's Roadmap Signature Initiative in Community-Based Primary Health Care.

Our programs and this Guide evolve as the research environment in Saskatchewan changes. SHRF welcomes suggestions from researchers and administrators that might help us improve our programs and this Guide. Thank you for your interest in the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation and best wishes for a productive and successful 2012.



Karen Glazebrook  
Funding Programs Manager

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# 1 This Guide

This *Awards Guide 2012* outlines the purposes, processes, terms, and conditions of Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation (SHRF) funding programs and SHRF partnership programs for 2012. SHRF funding programs are administered solely by SHRF. SHRF partnership programs are collaborations with other funding agencies that are intended to support health research in Saskatchewan and increase national funds coming to Saskatchewan. Any grants funded through partnership programs must fit SHRF's mandate and align with the goals of the provincial *Health Research Strategy*; these grants may be administered by SHRF or the partnering agency.

The 2012 *Awards Guide* applies to all existing and new recipients of grants and awards, and their host institutions, unless specifically amended or declared void by SHRF.

This guide is revised annually and is distributed widely within the province's health research community. It is also posted online at [www.shrf.ca](http://www.shrf.ca).

All applicants and their host institutions are responsible for being aware of and complying with the requirements outlined in this guide. If you have any questions about the interpretation or application of any policies contained within this guide, please contact Karen Glazebrook, Funding Programs Manager, at 975-1686 or [kglazebrook@shrf.ca](mailto:kglazebrook@shrf.ca).

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## 2 About SHRF

### 2.1 Mandate

The Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation (est. 2003) is the provincial health research granting agency and carries on the work of the Saskatchewan Health Research Board (1979-1992) and the Health Services Utilization and Research Commission (1992-2003). SHRF is accountable to the Minister of Health and the Minister Responsible for Innovation and is governed by a Board of Directors.

SHRF's vision is *"Building a healthy Saskatchewan through health research."* The objectives of SHRF, as outlined in *The Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation Act, 2002* are:

- to seek and receive funding from governmental and non-governmental sources for the advancement of research;
- to encourage and facilitate research into matters associated with the health sciences, the health-related social sciences, and other health-related fields of study;
- to assist the Minister of Health to develop, implement and monitor a provincial strategy for health research;
- to provide funding to persons and agencies who are conducting or proposing to conduct research projects that are consistent with the provincial strategy; and
- to disseminate information to members of health-related professions and to the public respecting the objectives of SHRF, the research that SHRF supports, the results of that research and conclusions drawn from that research.

SHRF is committed to supporting excellent and ethical research and to managing public funds responsibly. SHRF takes many steps to report back to the public and to profile the work we are funding with public dollars, including constant updating of our website, annual reports, electronic newsletters, and promotional activities including Health Research Week and our annual SHRF Santé! Awards Evening.

### 2.2 Scope

All SHRF-funded research must have relevance for human health and is intended to support health research in Saskatchewan. SHRF defines human health research broadly as encompassing biomedical science, clinical research, health services and systems research, and research on the cultural, social, and environmental determinants of population health.

SHRF's research funding programs are not intended to replace major funding from federal agencies such as the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). Rather, they are aimed at stimulating and developing health research activity and capacity, thereby helping Saskatchewan researchers achieve success on the competitive national scene.

SHRF funds only the research and closely related components of projects; specifically SHRF does not pay for overhead or administration of research funding and does not

fund any components that aim to develop or deliver health-care service programs. Equipment purchased with grant funds becomes the property of the host institution.

### **2.3 Provincial Health Research Priority Areas**

SHRF's funding programs continue to be aligned with the priority research areas outlined in the provincial *Health Research Strategy* (Saskatchewan Health, 2004). Accordingly, SHRF places increased emphasis on health research in the following areas:

- Health needs of specific populations, with emphasis on Aboriginal people and seniors;
- Health systems and policy research, with emphasis on: health human resources; quality improvement; health service delivery in primary care and mental health; and rural and remote health service delivery;
- Determinants of health status, including early childhood development and the prevention and underlying causes of chronic and lifestyle-related disease (particularly diabetes, obesity and smoking);
- Public health including infectious disease, water safety, and food safety; and
- Synchrotron-based health research.

Funds in all SHRF programs are protected for research in priority areas (50% in some and 100% in others - see program descriptions for details).

### **2.4 Access to Information and Protection of Privacy**

SHRF is subject to provincial legislation on privacy and access to information, specifically *The Local Authority Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. SHRF is committed to openness and transparency and also to protecting the private information and intellectual property of our researchers. A copy of our operational policy in this area is available from our office.

## **3 Application Process and Requirements**

### ***3.1 Determining Eligibility***

SHRF determines eligibility of all applications. Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact SHRF with any questions about eligibility prior to submitting an application.

### ***3.2 Preparation***

Formatting requirements are outlined in the application forms for each program, which are available on the SHRF website. Only current year application forms will be accepted. These can be found on our website and are updated each year in December to coincide with the release of this *Awards Guide*.

### ***3.3 Pre- or Internal Review***

Collegial review prior to submission improves the quality of proposals. SHRF requires internal review for all Establishment grants, and all Regional Partnership Program operating grants and new investigator salary awards. SHRF encourages applicants to all other programs to have their applications pre-reviewed prior to submission with special consideration of the feasibility and quality of the research plan and the general organization and readability of the application. Research Services at your institution may offer assistance in this regard.

### ***3.4 Signatures***

All application forms clearly indicate the required researcher and institutional signatures. The original application must have original (pen-to-paper) signatures since the application constitutes a formal commitment to carry out the research proposed, if funded.

### ***3.5 Complete Applications***

Applicants must provide all requested information. Applications may be declared ineligible if they are incomplete. Missing signatures, incomplete sections, and missing information all constitute an incomplete application.

### ***3.6 Timely Submission***

Applications must be submitted by the deadline indicated in the relevant funding program description. Late applications will not be accepted.

### ***3.7 Confidentiality***

All applications are submitted to SHRF in confidence with personal and proprietary information used only for the purposes for which it is originally gathered, plus related activities necessary to fulfill SHRF's mandate.

## 4 Funding Process

### 4.1 Screening

SHRF undertakes an initial screening to evaluate the applicant's eligibility and the application's completeness. Applications that do not meet requirements outlined in Section 3 of this guide may be declared ineligible.

### 4.2 Peer Review

Applications are assessed by panels of experts, who follow peer-review principles and SHRF-established criteria for identifying worthy applications. The panels or committees are constituted appropriately to suit the nature of applications under review and include active health researchers, health professionals and other experts. Each committee is chaired by a respected researcher from a relevant field. Establishment Grants are also evaluated by external reviewers selected for their expertise in the proposed field of study. In programs where SHRF is matching or partnering with other funding agencies, peer review may be done by the other agency, so long as SHRF's requirements are met.

### 4.3 SHRF Peer Review Committees

SHRF has Peer Review Committee Guidelines that committee members adhere to; they are available on the SHRF website. SHRF has four standing review committees:

Review Committee	Focus
Biomedical Establishment Grants	Establishment applications in the biomedical sciences
Biomedical Personnel Awards	Fellowship applications in the biomedical sciences
Socio-Health, Systems, and Clinical Grants and Awards	Establishment and Fellowship applications in socio-health, systems, and clinical areas
Collaborative Grants and Awards	Health Research Group and Saskatchewan Research Chair applications

### 4.4 Criteria

Peer reviewers use the following criteria for evaluating funding proposals:

- importance and originality of the proposed research to its field;
- quality and feasibility of the research design, according to standards relevant to the field of study;
- suitability of the research environment;
- potential of the applicant(s) to carry out the work;
- general soundness of the overall research plan;
- appropriateness of the budget;
- adherence to principles of ethical research; and
- fit with the purpose and requirements of the funding program.

#### **4.5 Rating**

SHRF is committed to excellence and will fund only proposals that achieve an overall committee rating of 3.5 or higher on the following 5-point scale:

- 4.5 - 4.9 Outstanding: highest funding priority
- 4.0 - 4.4 Excellent: very high funding priority
- 3.5 - 3.9 Very good: high priority; should be funded
- 3.0 - 3.4 Good: acceptable, but low priority
- 2.5 - 2.9 Fair: not acceptable for funding but shows promise
- 2.0 - 2.4 Poor: needs major revision
- < 2.0 Seriously flawed

#### **4.6 Budget Reductions**

SHRF review committees look closely at grant application budgets and may recommend a budget reduction based on the fit between a proposed budget and proposed activities.

#### **4.7 Funding Recommendations**

Postdoctoral Fellowship and Establishment Grant applications are assigned to committees for review based on whether they are in the biomedical sciences, or related to socio-health, health systems, and clinical research. Criteria to further allocate funding within each area are as follows:

1. Only applications rating 3.5 or higher will be eligible for funding;
2. 50% of competition funds are reserved for research in priority areas;
3. Where SHRF partners with another agency to support a Postdoctoral Research Fellowship, relevant applications scoring 3.5 or higher will be funded;
4. Funding will be allocated by score from highest to lowest (only if above 3.5) until funds for the competition are exhausted; and
5. To ensure applicants have sufficient resources to complete their research as planned, SHRF will only fund whole grants as recommended by the review committee.

For Health Research Group grants, allocation criteria reward excellence while ensuring continuity across Phases of the program. Groups must address research in at least one provincial priority area. Criteria to allocate funding once applications have been rated are as follows:

1. Only applications rating 3.5 or higher will be eligible for funding;
2. The top rated application from each Phase will be funded (if 3.5 or higher), in the order of Phase 3, Phase 2, then Phase 1;
3. Allocation of remaining funds will proceed in the same manner with the second highest scoring application (if 3.5 or higher) from each phase (Phase 3, 2, 1) and so on; and
4. To ensure groups have sufficient resources to support planned group activities, SHRF will only fund whole grants as recommended by the review committee.

For Saskatchewan Research Chair awards, criteria to allocate funding once nominations have been rated are as follows:

1. Nominations must score 3.5 or higher to be funded.

#### **4.8 Approvals**

The SHRF Board reviews the committee's recommendations and, after ensuring that due process has been followed, approves funding for as many grants/awards as possible given available resources.

#### **4.9 Notification**

All applicants are notified in writing of the outcome, along with feedback (anonymous) from the peer reviewers. SHRF does not provide competition results over the telephone. Successful applicants receive an Award Letter that outlines any outstanding terms and conditions of funding.

#### **4.10 Acceptance**

Once an offer has been made, successful applicants must accept the grant or award in writing using the Notice of Acceptance form provided by SHRF, constituting an acceptance of the terms and conditions for funding. SHRF funds are not released until SHRF receives written acceptance and confirmation that all terms and conditions have been met.

Start dates may be postponed due to illness or parental leave. Applicants should contact the Funding Programs Manager as soon as the need for a postponement to the start date is known.

#### **4.11 Orientation**

New grant and award holders will be invited to an orientation session in late summer/fall of each year, where SHRF staff present information about SHRF, managing research funds, and general expectations. Recipients will also have an opportunity to ask questions of SHRF staff.

#### **4.12 Promotion**

Once the grant or award is accepted, photographs and project summaries (prepared with the recipient) are posted to SHRF's website and often used in other promotional materials. In addition, grant and award recipients are showcased at SHRF's annual Santé! Awards Evening, celebrating health research successes in Saskatchewan.

#### **4.13 Grant and Award Length**

SHRF grantees may use a "grace period" of up to nine months following the originally approved grant term to complete their research if:

- the grant is eligible for a grace period (see table below);
- there are funds remaining in the research account; and
- the grant's terms and conditions continue to be met.

Requests to extend some grants beyond the grace period will be considered if:

- the grant is eligible for an extension (see table below);
- the request is provided in writing at least two (2) months before funds are due to expire (counting the grace period); and
- the request describes the reason for, and length of, the extension requested.

SHRF will consider requests for extensions due to professional or personal delays, including, but not exclusive to, unanticipated delays in data collection or purchasing

of necessary equipment, parental responsibility, family responsibility or illness; these requests should be made in writing as early as possible after the need is known.

<b>Program</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>Grace Period</b>	<b>Extension</b>
Establishment Grant	3 years	✓	✓
Postdoctoral Research Fellowship - Stipend	2 years	✗	✗
Postdoctoral Research Fellowship - Allowance	2 years	6 months* *see section 6.2- Allowable Expenses	✗
Health Research Group Grant – Phase I	Up to 2 years	✓	✓
Health Research Group Grant – Phase II	3 years	✓	✓
Health Research Group Grant – Phase III	3 years	✓	✓
Saskatchewan Research Chair Award – Salary portion	5 years	✗	✗
Saskatchewan Research Chair Award – Operating portion	5 years	✓	✓
Research Connections Grant	varies	✗	✗

## 5 Accountability

### 5.1 Compliance

SHRF expects researchers to carry out their research responsibly and to make sound decisions on resource allocation. Researchers must operate in compliance with local, national, and international ethical and legal standards and all applicable policies of their host institution that govern:

- management and conduct of research, including safety;
- the financial management of research; and
- the management of research personnel and students involved in research.

Research undertaken for SHRF grants or awards is also subject to all policies laid out in the *SHRF Awards Guide*. Where there is neither an existing SHRF policy nor an existing host-institutional policy, researchers are to seek, through their institution's research administration, appropriate advice and/or a ruling from SHRF.

### 5.2 Releasing Funds

Specific terms and conditions of SHRF funding are outlined in Award Letters to researchers and agreed upon by researchers in their Notice of Acceptance to SHRF. All conditions must be fulfilled before funds are released. Researchers agree via the Notice of Acceptance to allow their employing institution to share with SHRF information related to ethics or safety approvals related to research funded by their grant/award.

Once any outstanding terms and conditions have been met, SHRF sends an Authorization for Funding Form (AFF) to the host institution where the funds will be held and managed in a separate research fund, according to accepted accounting practices for research funds. SHRF pays most research funds to the host institution on a monthly basis, except for Regional Partnership Program grants/awards and Partnerships for Health System Improvement (PHSI) grants, which are paid quarterly.

Continued authorization of funding for SHRF grants and awards and Saskatchewan Research Chairs is based on researchers' annual reports to SHRF and annual financial reports from host institutions, ensuring that terms and conditions continue to be met. Depending on the nature of the program, funds may be authorized yearly or at the beginning of the grant/award. These monitoring and authorization procedures apply to all existing and new SHRF grants and awards.

### 5.3 Fund Management

Research and financial offices at host institutions are responsible for managing the disbursement of research funds, ensuring timely flow of funds to researchers, and ensuring that expenditures from grants and awards stay within approved budgets and SHRF guidelines for the program.

Researchers are responsible for providing documentation to Financial Services at their institution so that annual and final statements may be prepared for SHRF on a timely basis.

## **5.4 Expenditures**

SHRF grants and awards may be used only for expenses incurred during the term of the grant or award. In particular:

- i. researchers are to limit spending to authorized amounts, as outlined in the Award Letter;
- ii. funds may not be spent or encumbered prior to the commencement of the grant or award, reflected in the start date identified on SHRF's AFF; and
- iii. funds not spent or encumbered by a project's conclusion will automatically revert to SHRF.

## **5.5 Budget Changes**

Research funds are to be spent according to budgets approved during the review and decision process (see individual program descriptions for eligible expenses). It may be necessary to reallocate grant funds between approved categories if the needs or circumstances of the research project have changed. Grantees should contact SHRF if they anticipate significant changes to their objectives that may result in significant changes to their budget.

Researchers should also contact SHRF if they anticipate substantial under-spending and/or inactivity. For SHRF grants of \$100,000/year or more, SHRF will take action if 25% of a yearly budget is carried over to the next grant year. This includes contacting the grant or award holder to explore the matter and, if warranted, taking appropriate financial action (see 5.8).

## **5.6 Reporting to SHRF**

Researchers are to provide annual and final reports to SHRF (reminders are sent to researchers one month prior to the anniversary of their funding start date).

Continued funding depends on submission of satisfactory annual reports. A satisfactory annual report is one that:

- i. is provided by the anniversary of a grant or award's start date;
- ii. confirms the terms and conditions of funding continue to be met; and
- iii. confirms research is being carried out as described in the application and budget approved for funding by SHRF; or
- iv. describes any changes in timelines or objectives for the next year, indicating whether the following grant-year will proceed as outlined in the application, and explaining any changes that would materially affect the research plan set out in the application.

Financial reports (Statements of Account) are prepared by the host institution's Financial Services on an annual basis, and when the research has been completed. Researchers must review and sign their Statements of Account before they are forwarded to SHRF.

## **5.7 Non-Compliance**

SHRF reserves the right to stop funding or research activity (see 5.8) at anytime if it determines that researchers are in breach of terms and conditions of funding, as

outlined in the Notice of Acceptance signed by the grant/award holder. Examples of a breach include, but are not limited to:

- changes in eligibility to hold funds or conduct research; and/or
- failure to provide satisfactory annual reports (see 5.6).

### ***5.8 Changing or Stopping Funding***

Financial actions that may be taken if a grant or award holder is determined by SHRF to be significantly under spent or inactive, or in breach of terms and conditions include: stopping payments temporarily or permanently; stopping access to the research fund; asking the employing institution to stop all research activity; and/or rescinding all or part of the grant or award.

If at any time it is determined that any representation or warranty made by the grantee/supervisor/award holder in the grant application is not true or accurate, or is materially misleading, SHRF may at its discretion terminate the grant.

For SHRF funding programs, continued funding depends on whether, in the fiscal year in which an anniversary date of a grant/award falls, the provincial government shall have provided sufficient funding for SHRF to cover all its budgeted operating expenditures and grant and similar commitments for such fiscal year. Where the funding provided to SHRF is not sufficient to cover such amounts, it is within the discretion of SHRF to determine what funds it might allocate to grants and awards.

### ***5.9 Acknowledgment of SHRF funding***

Researchers should acknowledge SHRF support in all resulting publications, abstracts, posters, presentations, other dissemination avenues, and applications of their research.

### ***5.10 Sharing Health Research***

Ensuring that research leads to benefits for health, the health system, and society is important. SHRF strongly encourages researchers to share their work with relevant communities of interest, to publish in high quality journals and to present their findings at conferences. This will ensure that their research is in the public domain, available and accessible for addressing challenging health issues. SHRF encourages all funding recipients to make their research findings publicly available, including publishing in open access forums and other public scholarly venues.

### ***5.11 Sharing with Partnering Agencies***

Grant and award recipients who receive funding from partnering agencies agree via the Notice of Acceptance to let SHRF share annual and final reports with the Partnering Agency, and to allow the partnering agency to contact the recipient directly for the purposes of knowledge exchange and promotion.

## 6 SHRF Programs

### 6.1 Establishment Grants

#### *Purpose*

The Establishment Grant Program is intended to assist university faculty who are new or newly resident in Saskatchewan in establishing independent health research programs within the province and achieving the research productivity necessary for obtaining major funding from national and other external agencies.

#### *Scope*

Research supported must be in a field of human health research, defined broadly as encompassing biomedical science, clinical research, health services and systems research, and research on the cultural, social, and environmental determinants of population health. At minimum, 50% of funding in this program will be given to those who focus on a health research priority area as defined in the provincial *Health Research Strategy* (see section 2.3).

#### *Important Dates*

Internal Review: Check with Research Services **EARLY** at your institution  
 Application Deadline: **4:30 p.m., March 15, 2012**  
 Funding Decisions by: **June 30, 2012**  
 Funding Start Date: **July 2012 - October 2012** (first of a month)

#### *Funding*

The program is offered annually, subject to availability of funding. The grant:

- may be up to \$120,000 over 3 years;
- may be used to match funds from another agency, provided that the request to the other agency has already been submitted or approved at the time of application to SHRF and that all SHRF requirements and processes are followed;
- is not meant to replace start-up funding provided by the researcher's employer/institution but is intended to complement and augment such support.

#### *Allowable Expenses*

Allowable expenses are those necessary to carry out the research and not provided through other means. They may include:

- clerical/secretarial support;
- research assistants, technicians, graduate students, and postdoctoral fellows;
- materials, office expenses, and supplies necessary to carry out the research;
- reimbursement for use of hospital equipment or personnel for medical procedures;
- technical advice of an unusually complex nature and/or requiring a considerable time commitment that goes beyond what could be expected in a collegial relationship;
- research equipment;
- field travel for the project;
- communications and knowledge translation; and
- travel to scientific events related to the project.

## **Eligibility**

To be eligible, the principal applicant must:

- hold a faculty appointment at a Saskatchewan university, with the expectation and opportunity to undertake research, the right to hold research grants at the university, and a responsibility to supervise graduate students;
- have held the above faculty appointment for no more than three years as of July 1 in the application year (Note: Allowances may be made for parental and medical leaves; SHRF reserves the right to seek verification of leaves);
- if in a limited-term appointment, include the following in the application: evidence that appropriate salary is secure for at least three years from the start date of the grant; a letter of support from the appropriate authority (i.e. Dean/Department Head) indicating the long-term prospects for the applicant's research career in Saskatchewan
- not simultaneously be a graduate student, research fellowship holder or holder of any other training award, or an employee of a for-profit business;
- not have previously held a SHRF Establishment Grant;
- be a Canadian citizen, permanent resident, or actively pursuing such status; and
- be able to commit a substantial portion of his/her time to the establishment research project; SHRF may seek verification of this commitment.

The principal applicant may apply with co-investigators who have the expertise to strengthen and contribute substantially to the proposed research. Co-investigators must:

- describe their contribution to and role in the project;
- provide required information about their qualifications and experience; and
- sign the form to indicate their awareness of and commitment to the project.

## **Review**

Applications are evaluated in a competitive, peer-review process that considers the following criteria:

- importance and originality of the proposed research to its field;
- quality and feasibility of the research design, according to standards relevant to the field of study;
- suitability of the research environment;
- potential of the applicant(s) to carry out the work;
- appropriateness of the budget;
- adherence to principles of ethical research; and
- fit with the general purpose and requirements of the funding program, including the importance of the study to the applicant's research career establishment in Saskatchewan.

## **Application**

Complete the current "Establishment Grant Application Form" available on the SHRF website.

## 6.2 Postdoctoral Research Fellowship Awards

### Purpose

The Postdoctoral Research Fellowship Program is intended to advance the research career development of the award holder and to enhance the research productivity of the supervising Saskatchewan university faculty member. It provides financial support to high-quality candidates for a period of postdoctoral research in a health-related field under the supervision of an experienced, active researcher.

### Scope

Research supported must be relevant to human health. It may be biomedical science, clinical research, health services and systems research, or research on the cultural, social, and environmental determinants of population health. At minimum, 50% of funding will be given to those who focus on a health research priority area as defined in the provincial *Health Research Strategy* (see Section 2.3).

### Partnered Awards

SHRF partners with other agencies to support some postdoctoral fellowships. Specific opportunities and related details are outlined in synopses on our website. All partnership fellowships follow the same policies, application process, and deadlines as our regular fellowships.

### Important Dates

Application Deadline: **4:30 p.m., March 15, 2012**  
 Applicant Assessments: **April 15, 2012** (see Application Form)  
 Funding Decisions by: **June 30, 2012**  
 Funding Start Date: **July 2012 - January 2013** (first of a month)

### Funding

The program is offered annually, subject to funding availability. The award includes:

- a **stipend** solely for the award holder's salary in the amount of \$45,000 per year for up to 2 years; and
- a **research allowance** in the amount of \$5,000 per year for up to 2 years.

A **Top-up Incentive Award** of \$10,000 per year for 2 years in stipend is available for applicants who:

- are recommended and approved for a SHRF Postdoctoral Fellowship; and
- are successful in obtaining a Tri-Agency Postdoctoral Fellowship (CIHR, SSHRC, or NSERC) to be held in SK, commencing between April of the year of application to SHRF and April of the following year (note: this does not include Regional Partnership Program (RPP) awards).

### Allowable Expenses (Research Allowance)

The Research Allowance is for the direct benefit of the award holder's research career development and can be used for the following types of expenditures:

- travel by the award holder to scientific meetings, conferences or workshops related to the research project, including meeting and non-degree course registration fees and texts, meals and accommodation, and transportation;
- professional membership fees relevant to the award holder's field of study; and
- costs of linkages and outreach that support the award holder's dissemination or exchange of research findings.

The research allowance may not be used for project supplies and equipment (including computers), which must be provided by the supervisor's operating grant identified as supporting the fellowship application. Research allowance funds for Fellowships are available at the start of each year of the award; funds not used may be carried into the next year. All activities and expenses must be completed or committed by six months after the fellowship term.

### **Eligibility**

To be eligible, the applicant:

- must hold a Ph.D. degree, or a health professional degree (M.D., D.D.S., D.V.M., Pharm.D. or equivalent), or will hold such a degree prior to the deadline for taking up awards;
- must be within 3 years of having completed the qualifying degree at the time of application (Note: Allowances may be made for parental and medical leaves; SHRF reserves the right to seek verification of leaves);
- must have Canadian immigration approval to live and work in Canada for the term of the fellowship, which must be in place before the award commences;
- may not simultaneously hold a university faculty appointment or equivalent, or any major award for salary purposes;
- will apply with a supervisor who is a Saskatchewan university faculty member (or equivalent) with an active, nationally funded research program and experience in the proposed field of study;
- will undertake a project that is designed to advance his/her development as an independent researcher;
- will undertake the fellowship on a full-time basis in Saskatchewan; and
- will undertake the fellowship in a research environment different from his/her Ph.D. work (e.g., a new academic unit or research group), and with a supervisor different from his/her Ph.D. work.

### **Review**

Applications are evaluated in a competitive, peer-review process that considers the following criteria:

- quality and potential of the candidate, looking at: academic preparation; research training and experience; research achievements; and potential to contribute to the proposed field of study;
- quality of the proposed project, looking at: importance and originality to the field of study; potential to enhance the applicant's research skills; and quality of the design and methodology;
- quality of the research environment, looking at: suitability of the facility, including space and equipment; strength of the supervisor's research program, including funding support; and potential for the candidate to develop research expertise and independence; and
- adherence to principles of ethical research.

### **Application**

Complete the current "Research Fellowship Application Form" available on the SHRF website.

### **6.3 Health Research Group Grants**

The Health Research Group Grant Program provides support for groups of talented productive researchers developing and carrying out plans for high-quality health research, knowledge translation, and capacity-building at a level of productivity that would not be possible from individual researchers working on their own. The program supports groups of researchers who comprise an appropriate range of talent, experience and perspectives for tackling complex health issues of importance to Saskatchewan.

This program combines elements from SHRF's previous Research Group Development and Health Research Team Grant programs into a staged approach for facilitating the development, operation, and ongoing sustainability of highly productive and competitive health research groups in Saskatchewan.

SHRF's goal is to support and sustain a select number of health research groups that demonstrate both ongoing excellence and relevance. The groups are a critical component of a vibrant health research enterprise in Saskatchewan, enhancing capacity to produce and share new knowledge that contributes to improved health and health-care.

The program has three phases that constitute a continuum of group development and maturation. Therefore, SHRF generally expects continuity in a group's membership across the phases, recognizing that some shift is inevitable. While researchers will continue to contribute to various research partnerships and projects, SHRF expects researchers who are members of a SHRF Health Research Group to make it a major commitment, or primary affiliation, and allows researchers to be a member of only one SHRF Health Research Group at any given time. This is to ensure a strong core membership, committed to the group's long-term vision and plans.

### 6.3.1 Health Research Group Grant-Phase One

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of Phase One is to support the formation and early development of health research groups that have the potential to evolve into highly productive and sustainable research groups capable of moving to Phase Two and securing major competitive funding.

#### **Scope**

Research supported must be in a field of human health research, defined broadly as encompassing biomedical science, clinical research, health services and systems research, and research on the cultural, social and environmental determinants of population health. Groups must be doing research in at least one of the provincial health research priority areas, as defined in the provincial *Health Research Strategy* (see Section 2.3).

#### **Important Dates**

Application Deadline: **4:30pm, October 1, 2012**

Funding Decisions by: **December 15, 2012**

Funding Start Date: **January 2013 – April 2013** (first of a month)

#### **Funding**

The program is offered annually, subject to availability of funding. The grant:

- may be up to \$30,000 total over up to 2 years (normally \$15,000 in Year 1 and \$15,000 in Year 2);
- must be matched by financial commitments from the members' home institution(s), where the SHRF portion comprises no more than 50% of the total support package; and
- is non-renewable.

#### **Allowable Expenses**

Allowable expenses are those necessary to carry out the proposed plan and not provided through other means. They may include:

- holding strategic planning or training sessions;
- hiring technical and/or support staff;
- supporting graduate students and other trainees; and
- travel related to planning, training, and knowledge exchange.

#### **Eligibility**

To be eligible, the group must:

- include up to **eight to ten** members, each employed in a faculty or senior research position at a university, health agency, or similar institution, and with a record of research productivity;
- have at least 70% of its members in Saskatchewan;
- exhibit strong leadership by a well-established researcher(s) with national funding, who will be responsible for the group's plan and funding;
- include members from more than one academic unit; and
- be a new research group that has not received SHRF group, team or centre funding in the past.

### **Review**

Applications are evaluated in a competitive, peer-review process that considers the following criteria:

- strength and potential of the group, looking at: leadership, talent mix, and research experience;
- clear description of each group member's roles and responsibilities in relation to each group objective;
- value added by the group's approach to the research;
- quality and feasibility of the proposed plan, looking at: long-term vision and goals, strategy for developing a sustainable group, research focus, fit with priority areas as defined in the provincial *Health Research Strategy*, and appropriateness of the budget;
- suitability of the research facilities and environment;
- support from the home institution(s); and
- potential to build research capacity, looking at: probability of securing national grants, opportunities for employment and training, and ability to foster excellence.

### **Application**

Complete the current "Health Research Group Grant (Phase One) Application Form" available on the SHRF website.

### 6.3.2 Health Research Group Grant-Phase Two

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of Phase Two is to support high-quality research, knowledge translation, and capacity-building for groups that have held SHRF Phase One (or Research Group Development or Facilitation) funding, and that have demonstrated the potential to evolve into highly productive and sustainable research groups (Phase Three). Phase Two provides operating funding to support group members to collaboratively produce and share research knowledge that will strategically position them to compete for major funding at a national level.

#### **Scope**

Research supported must be in a field of human health research, defined broadly as encompassing biomedical science, clinical research, health services and systems research, and research on the cultural, social and environmental determinants of population health. Groups must be doing research in at least one of the provincial health research priority areas, as defined in the provincial *Health Research Strategy* (see Section 2.3).

#### **Important Dates**

Application Deadline: **4:30pm, October 1, 2012**

Funding Decisions by: **December 15, 2012**

Funding Start Date: **January 2013 – April 2013** (first of a month)

#### **Funding**

The program is offered annually, subject to funding availability. The grant:

- may be up to \$100,000 per year for up to 3 years; and
- is non-renewable.

#### **Allowable Expenses**

Allowable expenses are those necessary to carry out the research and not provided through other means. They may include:

- materials, supplies, and major equipment
- hiring technical and/ or support staff;
- supporting graduate students and other trainees;
- field travel;
- holding strategic planning or training sessions; and
- costs of linkage and outreach to disseminate research findings, particularly with individuals and organizations committed to applying research for the improvement of health and health care.

#### **Eligibility**

To be eligible, the group must:

- include up to **eight to ten** members, each employed in a faculty or senior research position at a university, health agency, or similar institution, and with a record of research productivity;
- have at least 70% of its members in Saskatchewan;
- exhibit strong leadership by a well-established researcher(s) with national funding, who will be responsible for the group's plan and funding;
- include members from more than one academic unit; and

- have achieved a Phase One grant, a Research Group Development grant (New or Renewal), or a Research Group Facilitation grant (New or Renewal).

**Review**

Applications are evaluated in a competitive, peer-review process that considers the following criteria:

- strength and potential of the group, looking at: leadership, talent mix, and research experience;
- clear description of each group member's roles and responsibilities in relation to each group objective;
- clinicians have sufficient time to participate meaningfully in group activities;
- value added by the group's approach to the research;
- importance and originality of the proposed research to its field;
- quality and feasibility of the proposed plan, looking at: clarity of goals, research focus and themes; appropriateness of proposed approach and research methods; and appropriateness of the budget;
- potential for knowledge translation;
- potential to build research capacity, looking at: potential to secure national grants; opportunities for employment, mentoring and training and ability to foster excellence;
- suitability of the research facilities and environment;
- support from the home institution(s); and
- completion of Phase One or SHRF Group Development grant (New or Renewal) goals.

**Application**

Complete the "Health Research Group Grant (Phase Two) Application Form" available on the SHRF website.

### 6.3.3 Health Research Group Grant-Phase Three

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of Phase Three is to provide major support for groups of talented and experienced researchers doing high-quality health research, contributing to knowledge translation, and building research capacity at a level of productivity and excellence that would not be possible from individual researchers working on their own.

#### **Scope**

Research supported must be in a field of human health research, defined broadly as encompassing biomedical science, clinical research, research on health services and systems, or research on cultural, social and environmental determinants of population health. Groups must be doing research in at least one of the provincial health research priority areas, as defined in the provincial *Health Research Strategy* (see Section 2.3).

#### **Important Dates**

Application Deadline: **4:30pm, October 1, 2012**

Funding Decisions by: **December 15, 2012**

Funding Start Date: **January 2013 – April 2013** (first of a month)

#### **Funding**

The program is offered annually, subject to funding availability. The grant:

- may be up to \$250,000 per year for up to 3 years (Note: the maximum amount per year will only be awarded in exceptional circumstances to groups with a strong justification for this amount of funding. Groups are strongly advised to ensure their budgets are realistic and essential for their proposed plans); and
- is renewable (see Review, below).

#### **Allowable Expenses**

Allowable expenses are those necessary to carry out the research and not provided through other means. They may include:

- **operational** research expenditures:
  - salaries for project co-ordinator/manager (recommended), research technicians and assistants;
  - stipends for graduate students and other trainees;
  - faculty salaries that provide “bridging” opportunities but NOT longer-term ongoing support;
  - some teaching release for team members to increase research time;
  - limited release-time payments to enable employees of community partners to participate in the research program;
  - materials, supplies and services;
  - group meeting costs;
  - field travel; and
  - costs of linkage and outreach to disseminate research findings, particularly with individuals and organizations committed to applying research for the improvement of health and health care.

- **infrastructure** expenditures (these costs cannot exceed 30% of annual budget in any grant year):
  - group leader's stipend;
  - essential major equipment.

### **Eligibility**

To be eligible, the group must:

- include up to **eight to ten** members, each employed in a faculty or senior research position at a university, health agency, or similar institution, and with a record of research productivity;
- have at least 70% of its members in Saskatchewan;
- exhibit strong leadership by a well-established researcher(s) with national funding, who will be responsible for the group's plan and funding;
- include members from more than one academic unit;
- have institutional support from the researchers' home institution(s), outlined in a letter from the Vice-President Research, or designate, that addresses: infrastructural support (including space, furniture, and office equipment); fit with the research environment; and additional institutional resources supporting the team; and
- have had a Phase Two grant, a SHRF Health Research Team grant, or SHRF research centre funding.

### **Review**

Applications are evaluated in a competitive peer-review process that considers the following criteria:

- strength and potential of the group, looking at: leadership, talent mix, and research experience;
- clear description of each group member's roles and responsibilities in relation to each group objective;
- record of excellence and productivity;
- value added by the group's approach to the research;
- importance and originality of the proposed research to its field;
- quality and feasibility of the proposed plan, looking at: clarity of goals, research focus and themes; appropriateness of proposed approach and research methods; and appropriateness of the budget;
- potential for knowledge translation;
- potential to build research capacity, looking at: ability to secure national grants; opportunities for employment, mentoring and training and ability to foster excellence;
- suitability of the research facilities and environment; and
- achievement of Phase Two goals (for renewals, completion of previous Phase Three goals).

Renewal applications would be expected in the last year of the current grant and will be reviewed based on the above criteria in addition to sustained levels of productivity.

### **Application**

Complete the current "Health Research Group Grant (Phase Three) Application Form" available on the SHRF website.

## 6.4 Research Connections Grants

### Purpose

The Research Connections Program provides matching funds to support knowledge exchange through health research conferences, major meetings, research days, and like events that are organized and held in Saskatchewan. Events will promote sharing and using of health research knowledge in Saskatchewan and encourage linkages between and among researchers and others.

### Scope

Supported events must focus on an area of human health research, defined broadly as encompassing biomedical science, clinical research, health services and systems research, and research on the cultural, social and environmental determinants of population health.

### Important Dates

Application Deadline: **At least two months before event**

Funding Decisions: Normally within **two weeks** of application

### Funding

The program is offered annually, subject to funding availability. SHRF support through this program:

- may be up to a maximum of \$10,000 per event;
- must be matched at least equally by financial support from another organization or institution besides SHRF (operating grants are not eligible matching funding unless the event was explicitly funded as part of the original application); and
- must be administered by a university, health agency, or other similar institution in Saskatchewan that will provide a statement of account to SHRF.

### General Guidelines

Equipment is not an allowable expense. All other expenses must be clearly justified in relation to the event. While the maximum grant is \$10,000, grant amounts will vary depending on scope and need. Typically, grants awarded are under \$5,000. Major international conferences with a large impact could merit \$10,000; student poster days generally merit \$3,000.

### Eligibility

To be eligible, the **key contact** must be employed by a university, health agency, or similar institution in Saskatchewan with an interest in health research and knowledge exchange. The **event** must:

- fit with SHRF's mandate and objectives;
- occur in Saskatchewan, with strong SK representation in planning and participation;
- foster the advancement or exchange of health research knowledge;
- involve health researchers from more than one discipline, as well as students, health professionals, policy-makers, or community members, as appropriate;
- have secured matching funding;
- encourage national and international participation, as appropriate; and
- not be part of a regular weekly or monthly series (e.g., not a departmental seminar series or training program).

***Review***

Requests and opportunities will be reviewed internally. The final decision will be made by the CEO within the limits of funding available for the program. Applicants will be notified in writing of the outcome.

***Application***

Complete the current "Research Connections Application Form" available on the SHRF website.

## 6.5 Spinal Cord Injury Research Grants

**No competition is expected in 2012 for this program, a special initiative funded by Saskatchewan's Ministry of Health to address priorities defined in consultation with the Rick Hansen Institute (RHI). The first competition was in 2011 and, based on available resources, the next one is expected to be in 2013. Please watch our website for updates and competition timelines.**

### *Purpose*

The Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) Research Grant program is intended to support translational research in either the clinical/health services or biomedical stream that focuses on improving health outcomes for spinal cord injury patients and moving research findings into policy or practice.

### *Scope*

In the clinical and health services research stream, SHRF welcomes proposals addressing a wide range of SCI outcomes from acute care to rehabilitation to quality of life. Priority will be given to patient-oriented research leading to improved outcomes. Research proposals are encouraged from a variety of disciplines, including the social and behavioural sciences.

In the biomedical research stream, SHRF welcomes proposals related to developing, refining and testing devices, drugs, or therapies to improve SCI outcomes. Priority will be given to translational (bench to bedside) and proof of principle research. Researchers using animal models will need to justify the model's relevance to achieving human clinical trials.

Research supported must align with at least one of the following four RHI objectives: reduce incidence and severity of paralysis; improve health care outcomes; reduce long-term cost; and improve quality of life for those living with SCI.

### *Important Dates*

Letter of Intent Deadline: **No competition expected in 2012 – watch our website for updates and competition dates in 2013.**

Full Application Deadline: **No competition expected in 2012– watch our website for updates and competition dates in 2013.**

Funding Decisions by: **No competition expected in 2012.**

Funding Start Date: **No competition expected in 2012.**

### *Funding*

The funding envelope is \$1 million over five years. SHRF will hold competitions over a period of several years to align with the flow of government funds (\$200,000/year) for this initiative. The first competition is in 2011 and subsequent competitions will be set according to available funds and will be announced well in advance of deadlines. Currently, SHRF expects competitions to occur in 2011, 2013 and 2015.

Grant amounts and terms are as follows:

- Clinical or health services research grants: Up to \$100,000/year for two years
- Biomedical grants: Up to \$50,000/year for two years

SHRF will aim to support one clinical grant and two biomedical grants in each competition.

### ***Allowable Expenses***

Allowable expenses are those necessary to carry out the research and not provided through other means. They may include:

- salary for research co-ordinator, if appropriate;
- research staff, including technicians, clinical staff, and assistants;
- limited release-time for team members to increase their research focus, if necessary;
- materials and supplies;
- required services and technical contracts;
- reimbursement of clinical care costs;
- essential major equipment (including operating and maintenance);
- travel to support the research, including patient participation;
- team meetings and communication; and
- costs of linkage and outreach to disseminate research findings.

### ***Eligibility***

Eligibility must be demonstrated at the LOI stage. To be eligible, applicants must:

- hold a faculty appointment at a Saskatchewan university, with the expectation and opportunity to undertake research, the right to hold research grants at the university, and a responsibility to supervise graduate students or residents;
- not simultaneously be a graduate student, research fellowship holder or holder of any other training award, or an employee of a for-profit business;
- be a Canadian citizen, permanent resident, or actively pursuing such status; and
- be able to commit an appropriate portion of his/her time to the research project; SHRF may seek verification of this commitment.

The principal applicant may apply with co-investigators who have the expertise to strengthen and contribute substantially to the proposed research. Co-investigators must:

- describe their contribution to and role in the project;
- provide required information about their qualifications and experience; and
- sign the application form to indicate their awareness of and commitment to the project.

### ***Review***

Applications are evaluated in a competitive, peer-review process that considers the following criteria:

- strength of the researcher(s). i.e., appropriate qualifications and expertise to undertake proposed activities;
- likelihood that necessary facilities, equipment, researcher time, support personnel, and other necessary resources and infrastructure will be available to support the

team's work (including evidence of support from universities, community, health regions, and others key partners);

- quality, thoroughness, and feasibility of the research plan, including ethical and safety considerations;
- fit of research plan with the program's intended purpose, including alignment with RHI objectives;
- potential impact to SCI community;
- strength of plans for knowledge translation; and
- reasonableness of budget for the proposed goals and activities.

***Application***

Letter of Intent and Full Proposal submission guidelines and requirements are outlined in the "Spinal Cord Injury Research Call for Proposals", available on the SHRF website.

## 7 Partnership Programs

### 7.1 Saskatchewan Research Chairs

#### *Purpose*

The Saskatchewan Research Chairs Program is intended to attract, support and retain top-quality research leaders who are working in a provincial priority area (see “Scope” below) and who contribute to capacity-building and knowledge-sharing in those areas.

#### *Scope*

Research supported must be in a field of human health research, defined broadly as encompassing biomedical science, clinical research, health services and systems research, and research on the cultural, and social and environmental determinants of population health. Proposed research must align with the research priority areas and themes of the provincial *Health Research Strategy* (see Section 2.3).

#### *Focus Areas and Available Chairs*

For each Chair opportunity, SHRF works with one or more partner agencies to develop the focus of the Chair and any additional requirements. These are defined in a formal partnership agreement and summarized in a Saskatchewan Research Chair Synopsis promoting each opportunity. SHRF will notify Saskatchewan institutions (via the Office of the Vice-President Research) when a Chair opportunity comes available. For current Chair opportunities, see the synopses listed on SHRF’s website.

#### *Important Dates*

Letter of Intent Deadline:

**4:30 p.m., March 15 or October 1** (defined in relevant Chair synopsis)

Nomination Submission Deadline:

**4:30 p.m., normally March 15 or October 1** (defined in LOI decision letter)

Funding Decisions:

**Normally within 3 months of Nomination Submission Deadline**

Start Date:

**Normally 6 – 12 months after the Funding Decision.**

#### *Funding*

For each available Chair opportunity, the award will:

- normally provide \$200,000 per year for up to 5 years, with up to \$100,000 per year from SHRF and the remainder from partner agencies (the value may be higher for clinical researchers);
- be renewable once for 5 years, subject to funding availability, with the renewal submission due in the last year of the first term; and
- provide a contribution to the award holder’s salary, funds to carry out research, and support for trainees working with the Chair holder.

#### *Allowable Expenses*

- salary for the award holder
- salaries for research technicians and assistants
- stipends for graduate students and other trainees
- materials, supplies and services

- field travel
- costs of linkage and exchange with relevant communities of practice to enhance knowledge creation, sharing and application

### **Eligibility**

To be eligible, candidates must:

- hold a faculty appointment at a Saskatchewan institution when the award commences;
- be a Canadian citizen or a permanent resident when the award commences;
- hold (or have held within the previous year) a major national multi-year and competitively peer-reviewed health research operating grant as the principal investigator at the time of application;
- commit at least 75% of their time to the proposed research;
- be, or plan to be, part of an active, productive research group or unit in Saskatchewan;
- demonstrate the ability to lead and be innovative while also working collaboratively with other researchers, community partners, and research trainees;
- have written support and commitment from the appropriate Dean, Department Head and/or Director at the employing institution(s) for the required time and the infrastructure (e.g., space, furniture, office equipment and administrative support) to support the activities outlined in the proposal; and
- not hold any other major salary award simultaneously.

### **Review**

Letters of Intent will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- the degree to which the research environment at the institution can provide the necessary support for the Chair in terms of infrastructure, personnel, and key health service, community, and/or industry linkages;
- the strategic importance of the topic area to the institution; and
- the potential to build capacity in the focus area, both at the institution and in Saskatchewan, beyond what currently exists.

Nominations will be evaluated based on excellence and relevance, and considering the following criteria:

- strength and potential of the candidate, looking at: leadership potential, competitive funding success, publishing record, mentorship record, and linkages with relevant communities;
- quality and feasibility of the proposed research program looking at importance and originality, and clarity of goals and objectives;
- fit with the focus of the Chair and any additional requirements stated in the relevant Saskatchewan Research Chair Synopsis;
- potential for knowledge translation – e.g., sharing and using research knowledge to generate improvements in health and health care;
- potential to build capacity in the focus area, looking at: ability to attract additional research funding, opportunities to attract top-quality students and trainees, work with relevant partners, and collaborate with other researchers from various disciplines.

## Application

SHRF will not accept applications directly from individual researchers. Please see the selection process outlined below. Be sure to check SHRF's website for the latest information on available Chairs and related institutional contact information.

There are three stages to the selection process:

1. Letter of intent (LOI) stage: Saskatchewan institutions wishing to host a particular Saskatchewan Research Chair submit letters of intent (maximum 5 pages) to SHRF in which they describe:
  - how the research environment at the institution will support the Chair in terms of infrastructure, start-up, and personnel;
  - strategic importance of the topic area to the institution;
  - expected health service/community/industry linkages as they relate to the Chair's focus area;
  - how the Chair will build capacity for health research at the institution and in Saskatchewan beyond what currently exists;
  - a draft posting for the position, including the expected level (i.e. Assistant, Associate, Full); and
  - expected process and timelines for recruiting potential candidates.
  
2. Nomination stage: The Institution that is successful at the Letter of Intent stage will recruit candidates and nominate their top candidate for the Chair Award. Working with the candidate, the institution will submit a nomination package (see our website for the nomination form) to SHRF that includes:
  - the curriculum vitae (CV) of the candidate;
  - a description of the candidate's proposed research program to be undertaken with the support from the Chair award; and
  - an institutional letter recommending the candidate for the Chair award.
  
3. Results stage: If the candidate achieves a score of 3.5 or higher, the review committee will recommend the candidate for funding. Upon SHRF Board approval, the institution and the nominee will be notified of their success, and the institution will complete the recruitment and hiring process. SHRF will release award funding once the institution notifies SHRF that all requirements have been met and the candidate has taken up the position. If the candidate scores below 3.5, the institution will have 6 months to resubmit a nomination with the same candidate or another of their choosing.

## 7.2 Saskatchewan – CIHR Regional Partnership Program

The Canadian Institutes of Health Research offers the Regional Partnership Program (RPP) in six provinces to increase the level of nationally funded health research in those provinces. Grants are funded by CIHR and provincial funds on a 1:1 matching basis. In Saskatchewan, SHRF provides most of the matching funds, is responsible for the provincial RPP Advisory Committee, and has a formal agreement with CIHR.

CIHR supports RPP via its Priority Announcement system. Priority Announcements occur in June and December and indicate which programs are eligible, as determined by provincial RPP advisory committees. In Saskatchewan, eligible programs are: Open Operating Grants; New Investigator Salary Awards; Doctoral Student Awards; and Postdoctoral Fellowships.

Interested applicants should read the provincial RPP policies and the Strategic Plan developed by the provincial RPP Advisory Committee and available on the SHRF website. Applications go directly to CIHR for review but must first go through internal review at the researcher's home institution. Applicants also complete a relevance form to indicate the fit of their research with Saskatchewan's provincial health research priority areas, as a portion of funding is allocated to those priority areas.

For University of Saskatchewan applicants with general RPP questions or questions about internal peer-review review contact:

Office of the Associate Vice-President Research – Health, U of S  
[cihr.internalreview@usask.ca](mailto:cihr.internalreview@usask.ca) or (306) 966-8745

For University of Saskatchewan applicants with questions related to administrative review or obtaining institutional signatures contact:

Research Services, University of Saskatchewan  
[research.services@usask.ca](mailto:research.services@usask.ca) or (306) 966-8576

For University of Regina applicants, all RPP questions should be directed to:

Office of Research Services, University of Regina  
[research.services@uregina.ca](mailto:research.services@uregina.ca) or (306) 585-4775

### ***7.3 Partnerships for Health System Improvement***

The Partnerships for Health System Improvement (PHSI) Program is a CIHR partnership initiative run by the Institute for Health Services and Policy Research (IHSPR). It is designed to support teams of researchers and decision-makers interested in conducting applied health services research useful to health system managers and or policy makers within the next five years. SHRF manages Saskatchewan's provincial funds for this program and will provide the required matching funds, subject to resource availability and fit with provincial priority areas.

Applications go directly to CIHR for review, but, prior to submission, applicants are required to submit CIHR's Partnership Module to SHRF to request matching funds and to provide information on the proposed research, budget, and requested funds. Further details about this program, including SHRF-specific requirements, are available on CIHR's website (<http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/34347.html>).

### ***7.4 Community-Based Primary Health Care Team Grants***

Community-Based Primary Health Care (CBPHC) is one of CIHR's new Roadmap Signature Initiatives and the Team Grant is the first funding opportunity offered in this Initiative (Call expected Fall/Winter 2011). The Team Grant opportunity is designed to support original, interdisciplinary, cross-jurisdictional programmatic research, as well as capacity building and knowledge translation in the focus area.

SHRF will partner to support the top-rated Saskatchewan team that develops new or evaluates existing promising models of CBPHC delivery relevant to the priority areas of chronic disease prevention and management in CBPHC and/or access to appropriate CBPHC for vulnerable populations. Teams must include a nominated principal applicant based in Saskatchewan who is able to manage the funds at an eligible Saskatchewan institution and at least one additional community-based team member (i.e., decision-maker) based in Saskatchewan.

Applications go directly to CIHR for review. There is no formal requirement to notify SHRF of the application; however SHRF would appreciate knowledge of the application, including information about funds requested. More information is available on CIHR's website (<http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/43249.html>).

### ***7.5 Other***

Should SHRF develop new funding partnerships during the year, information will be posted to the SHRF website in the Funding area.

## **Notes**





Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation  
253 - 111 Research Drive, Atrium Building,  
Innovation Place, Saskatoon, SK S7N 3R2 Canada

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